(b) to (f) The details of Kottadih project are given below :—

(i) Extractable reserves	(UG—41.43 mt. OC—24.71 mt.)
(ii) Capacity—2.48 mty	(UG—1.38 mty. OC—1.10 mty.)
(iii) Sanctioned cost—	Rs. 267.52 Crores (UG—Rs. 179.01 crs. OC—Rs. 88.51 crs.)
(iv) Date of sanction of the combined project	9th June, 1989
(v) Total investment made till 31-3-94 (Provisional)	Rs. 225.97 crores
(vi) Production capacity as on 31-3-94	(UG—0.30 mty. OC—Nil)

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

(i) In Kottadih (Underground) longwall equipment has just been commissioned and results are expected from 1994-95. The opencast part of the project is delayed due to delay in land acquisition.

Development of Opencast Mines

5266. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) what is the logic behind the development of opencast coal mining only and giving priority to the same irrespective of its poor quality; and

(b) how much average UHV Kg/cal is getting out of the total production of non-coking coal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) The current production mix of opencast and underground production is an outcome of the regional demand pattern and the geo-mining and techno-economic considerations in exploiting the deposits. In the post nationalisation period there was a shift towards increased opencast mining for obtaining bulk production in short time frame and to match the growing need of the economy especially the power sector. However, priority is attached to both opencast and underground mining.

(b) The average Useful Heat value (UHV) for non coking coal produced by Coal India Ltd. is about 4300-4400 kilo calories per kilogram for 1993-94.

Exploitation of Lignite in Bikaner Distt.

5267. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether any MOU between Government of Rajasthan Ministry of Coal, and Neyvali Lignite Corporation exists that NLC would exploit all lignite in Bikaner Distt, for Power generation;

(b) whether Government are also aware that NLC is finding it difficult to develop Barsungsar due to fund constraints; and

(c) if so, whether Government would agree on the request of Rajasthan Government to release Guda and Bilthok lignite deposits from the MOU so that the State Government could offer them for private power generation cum mining projects;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Memorandum of